GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1950
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
WATER CRISIS IN RAJASTHAN
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of water crisis in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a national water management authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) In order to augment the availability of water for various uses and their efficient use, schemes are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Government of Rajasthan have informed that acute shortage of water in certain towns and villages is being met by transportation through tankers and rails. They have also taken up the execution of works on traditional water resources for water augmentation and on small water harvesting structures for water conservation & ground water recharge. In order to tide over the water scarcity, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been handing over the successful exploratory wells constructed by them to the Rajasthan State Government. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate the creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water for which technical assistance is provided to the State by CGWB. Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) of the Ministry of Rural Development, financial assistance is provided to the State to supplement the efforts for providing drinking water facilities in the rural habitations.

(c) & (d) There is no such proposal with the Government to set up a National Water Management Authority.